

**REMARKS/ARGUMENTS:**

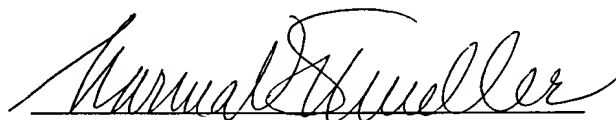
Reconsideration is respectfully solicited.

Applicants note with appreciation the indication that claims 16-27 and 35 are allowed.

In order to moot the rejection of claims over Smith et al., applicants have amended Claim 28 to add the phrase --surrounding said first catalyst body-- after "retarding layer". In view of the Examiner's, suggestion, the application appears to be in condition for allowance.

Respectfully submitted,

Date: March 16, 2005

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Marina V. Schneller", written over a horizontal line.

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